REMARKS

Initially, the applicants would like to thank the examiner for the courtesies extended to the undersigned during the interview of 16 July 2009, during which the above-amendments and the following remarks were discussed.

Claims 7, 13 and 15-16 are pending.

In the below discussion, reference numerals are included only for discussion purposes. The references numerals are not included for limiting the scope of the claims.

Claims 7, 13 and 15-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,181,872 to Yamane *et al.* (hereafter: "Yamane"). For the reasons discussed below, these claims, as amended, should now be in condition of allowance.

Claims 7 and 16 have been amended to recite features associated with the exemplary embodiment described, for example, on pgs. 40-41 in which the graphics stream is a sequence of packets including packets containing graphics data and packets containing control data. The sequence includes a pair of a packet containing graphics data and a packet containing control data, and the pair is followed by a packet containing control data that performs a forward reference. The control data that performs the forward reference indicates that graphics, which corresponds to the graphics data contained in the pair of packets which precedes the control data that performs the forward reference, is to be displayed.

The graphics decoder includes a controller which updates the graphics display by writing graphics generated on the object buffer into the partial area again based on read control data that performs a forward reference.For example, as shown in FIG. 20, the graphic stream includes a pair of a packet having control data (PCS) and a packet having graphic data (ODS#u+1). Another packet in DSn+1 which follows the pair includes control data (PCS) which is a forward reference back to the graphic data (ODS#u+1).Accordingly, it is possible to achieve an efficient technique for overlaying graphics data onto video data within a short period of time since it is not required to repetitively decode graphics data.

On the other hand, Yamane describes a decoder for decoding a multimedia bistream. The decoder includes a synchronizer 2900, a sub-picture buffer 2700, and a sub-picture decoder 3100.

As correctly noted by the examiner, the synchronizer 2900 determines the decoding start timing and generates a start signal S91 which is output to the sub-picture decoder 3100. In response, the sub-picture decoder 3100 begins to decode a bit-stream stored in the sub-picture buffer 2700.

Firstly, although Yamane describes the bit-stream as including sub-picture, Yamane fails to disclose that the bit-stream includes a pair of a packet containing graphics data and a packet containing control data, and a packet containing control data that performs a forward reference following the pair as called for in amended claims 7 and 16.

Secondly, neither the sub-picture decoder 3100 nor the synchronizer 2900 update the graphics display by writing the graphics generated on an object buffer into the partial area *again* when control data that performs a forward reference has been read into the graphics decoder from a recording medium as also called for in amended claims 7 and 16.

Moreover, the decoders in Yamane cannot perform the above update process because the

bit-stream does not include control data that performs the forward reference as discussed above.

At best, the bit-stream includes the time information signal St77, which was asserted as the examiner as describing the control data. However, assuming *arguendo*, that the information signal St77 or its counterpart start signal St91 disclose control data, Yamane still fails to disclose that the sub-picture decoder 3100 updates the display by writing the graphics generated on an object buffer into the partial area again from the pair of packets after reading start signal St91. Rather, Yamane merely describes the sub-picture decoder 3100 as decoding data in response to the start signal St91.

Therefore, because Yamane fails to disclose a reproduction apparatus wherein (1) a graphics stream includes a pair of a packet containing graphics data and a packet containing control data, the pair followed by a packet containing control data that performs a forward reference, and (2) a graphics decoder including a controller operable to execute a graphics display, wherein when control data that performs a forward reference has been read into the graphics decoder, the controller updates the graphics display by writing the graphics generated on the object buffer into the partial area again based on the read control data that performs the forward reference, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 7 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn.

Claim 15 recites limitations similar to claim 7, albeit as a method. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 15 should be withdrawn for the above-mentioned reasons with respect to claim 7.

Claim 13 also recites the graphics stream is a sequence of packets, the packets constituting the graphics stream include two types, one of which is packets containing graphics data and the other is packets containing control data, the sequence of packets includes a pair of a packet containing graphics data and a packet containing control data, the pair is followed by a packet containing control data that performs a forward reference. As discussed above with respect to claim 7, Yamane fails to disclose such a graphics stream. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, the applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. A timely notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If questions relating to patentability remain, the examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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